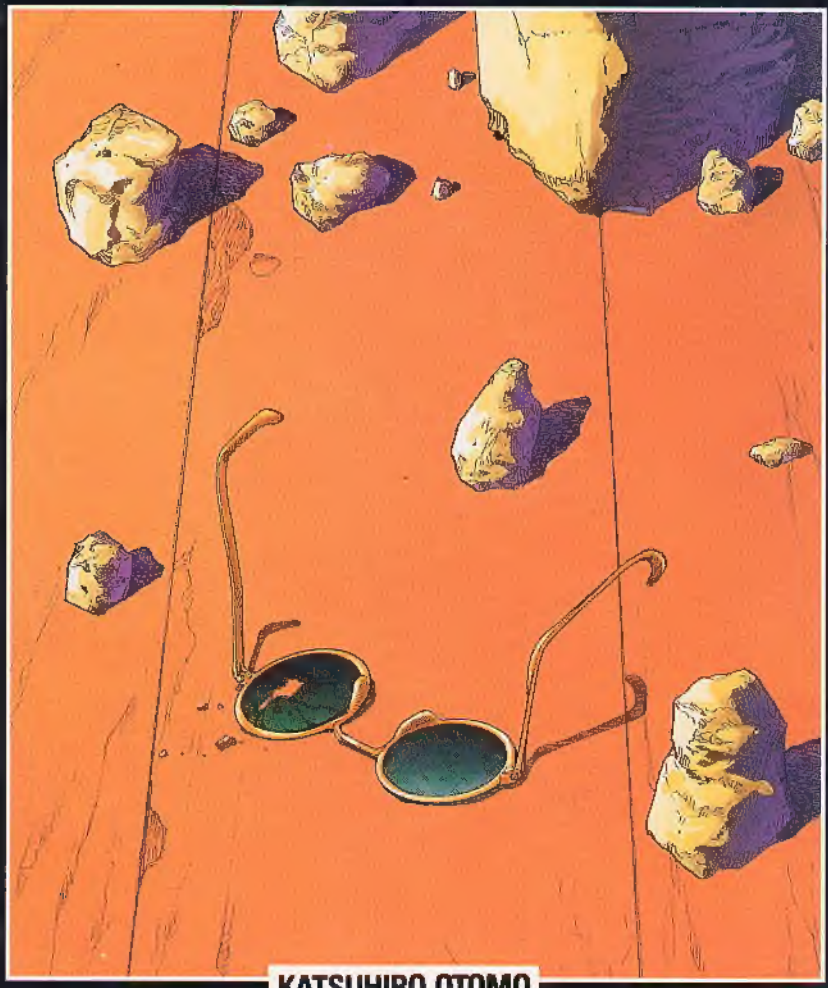
AKIRA

35™



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KATSUHIRO OTOMO

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AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Chapter 35

FACE TO FACE

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

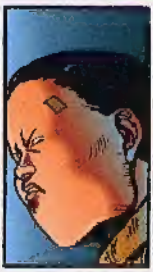
2030. The world hovers on the brink of World War IV. **Kaneda,** one-time leader of a delinquent gang, is caught up in the aftermath of a power struggle between a Japanese military research organization — led by a man known only as the **Colonel** — and a resistance group whose members included **Kay, Ryu,** and a formidable woman named **Chiyoko.**

The Colonel had a number of psychic children under his control. Each is identified by a number marked on the hand. Among them were **Kiyoko** and **Masaru, Numbers 25** and **27.** The blind **Lady Miyako — Number 19,** now heads a great religious cult. **Number 41** is **Tetsuo,** who lost his arm to a laser blast from the Colonel's military satellite SOL, and has used cybernetics and telekinesis to fabricate a prosthetic replacement. **Tetsuo** was Kaneda's dearest friend until he used his burgeoning powers to slaughter other members of their gang. Now, **Kaneda** is out for revenge.

Most powerful of all the children is **Number 28 — Akira** — a docile and enigmatic boy who was placed in cryogenic sleep almost forty years ago, when, with a mental blast, he started the Third World War. He was recently reawakened by **Tetsuo,** and again he devastated the reconstructed city of **Neo-Tokyo.** Now Japan exists in a state of emergency. The forces of the army and the resistance are scattered, and the military's formidable caretaker robots patrol the streets.

In the western part of **Neo-Tokyo,** the **Great Tokyo Em-**

Akira



Chiyoko

The Colonel

Takashi

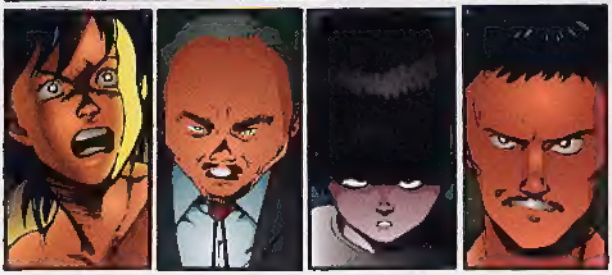
pire is formed, a monarchy with **Akira** on the throne and **Tetsuo** as his prime minister. Together the pair use their powers, organizing their subjects into fighting units to defend their land. Their headquarters is Neo-Tokyo's Olympic Stadium. To the east, **Lady Miyako** welcomes refugees to her shrine. In this, she is aided by **Kiyoko, Masaru,** and a number of loyal, psychic monks.

The **Empire** is infiltrated by teams of spies and commando units from the outside world, equipped with biochemical armaments which take a tremendous toll on Tetsuo's forces.

A fleet of foreign ships waits in Tokyo Bay, poised for action. Aboard an American naval vessel, an international conclave of scientists and one Tibetan monk study the **Akira** phenomenon — which they've codenamed **Juvenile A.** One of the scientists — **Stanley Simmons** — goes ashore to implement a secret plan. The research team is certain that using military force against **Akira** and **Tetsuo** will only lead to disaster.

Meanwhile, **Kay** joins Miyako's forces in battle against **Tetsuo,** because **Kay** is a powerful medium, through whom the others can project their powers and strike as one. Tetsuo's powers have grown erratic. His body frequently bloats and expands, engulfing those who venture too close. The loss of control has grown worse since the murder of his gentle girlfriend, **Kaori.**

Kaneda teams up with **Kai**



Tetsuo **Nezu** **Sakaki** **Ryu**

and **Joker** — a friend and a rival from his gang days. Using salvaged weapons the trio lead a force of refugees and street rats to help **Kay** in her battle with **Tetsuo.** As they fight, **Akira** looks placidly on.

Then, the international fleet in the bay sends fighter planes to rain death upon **Neo-Tokyo,** causing chaos among all the combatants. Enraged, **Tetsuo** teleports himself to space, seizing control of the orbiting laser cannon. He fires the weapon at the fleet, and then brings it crashing down upon the flagship, killing the commanders and forcing a mass evacuation of military personnel and the few scientists who survive.

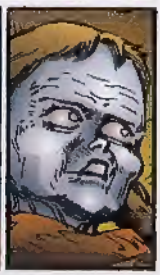
Inland, Kay's friends and supporters are scattered, some of them badly injured. The **Colonel,** crippled by the strike, aids **Kay,** as **Miyako** re-establishes her psychic bond with the girl. On the return to earth, **Tetsuo** finds Kaori's body. Using his telepathic powers, he is able to contact the soul of his lost love, but he can only reach her spirit for a brief, painful moment. Griefstricken, he carries her underground to the cryogenic chamber where **Akira** once slept. Drawn by the similarity of their powers, **Akira** follows **Tetsuo.**

Along the way, he is joined by **Kaneda, Joker, Chiyoko** and **Ryu.** They prepare to make a stand in the bowels of the earth, where many of their comrades died.

Kaori

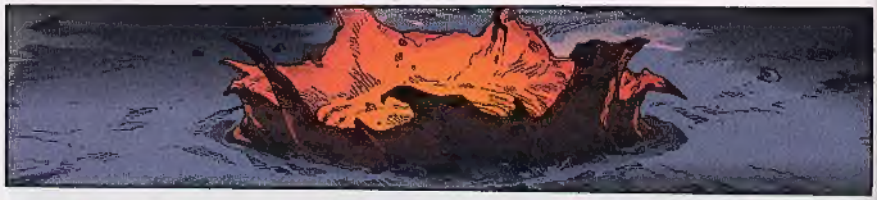
Masaru

Kai



Kiyoko

GONGONGONG



WAIT! DON'T LEAVE ME--!!

SPLUT

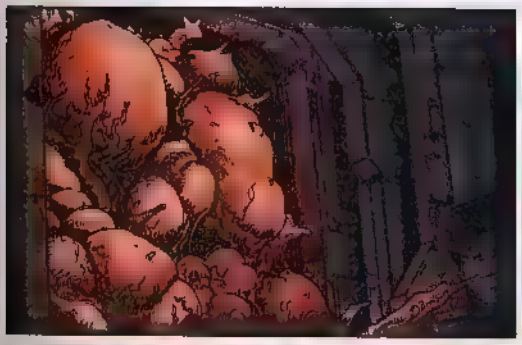
I'M NOT WORTHY TO EVEN VISIT YOUR GRAVE, BUT...

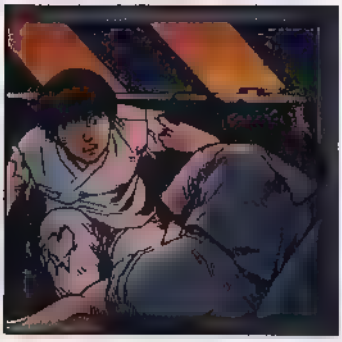
WE'RE ALMOST THERE.

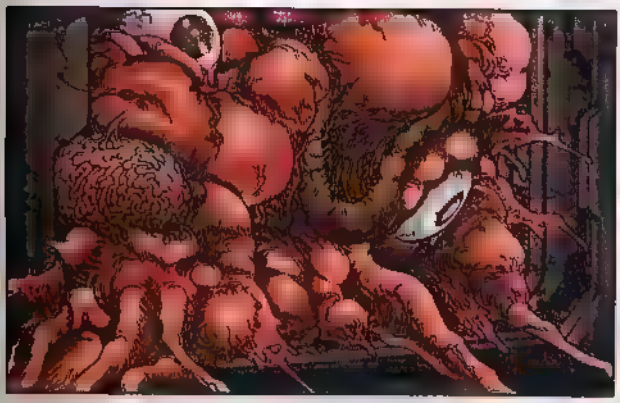
AAH!
HHMMM

BRING ALL YOUR POWER INTO ONE TIGHTLY FOCUSED POINT AND ESCAPE WITH IT!
HMMM
HWOOOO
POK
YEEEEEK!
POW

WE'RE ALMOST THERE!
GONGONG
KOONG
THOP
OO-OOH..

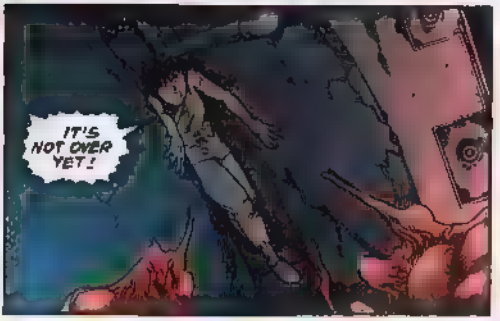






WHAT--?!

NO! I CAN'T ACCEPT THIS!

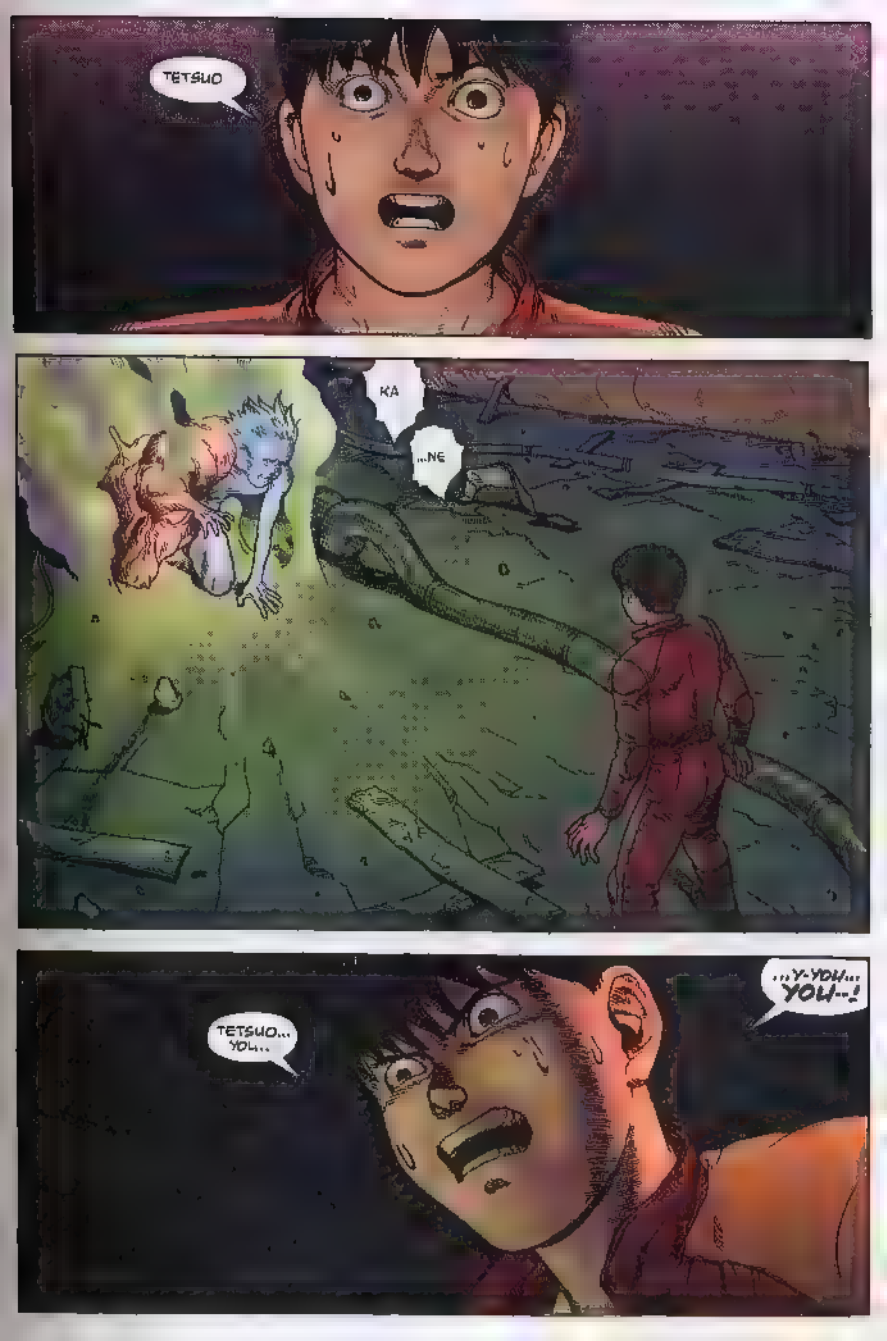

IT'S NOT OVER YET!

CHEW ON THIS, YOU FREAK!
BUDDA BUDDA
POM
POM
POM
UGHK
DID I GET HIM?

:GLAAUGH:
:GLAAUGH:
:GLAAUGH:
:GLAAUGH:
DAMN...
HE'S LINKED TO TETSUO... INFLUENCED BY THE MONSTER!
SAY WHAT --?!
RYU, GET AKIRA FAR AWAY FROM HERE!
BUT FIRST..
...TAKE THIS, YOU MAY NEED IT
SMAK

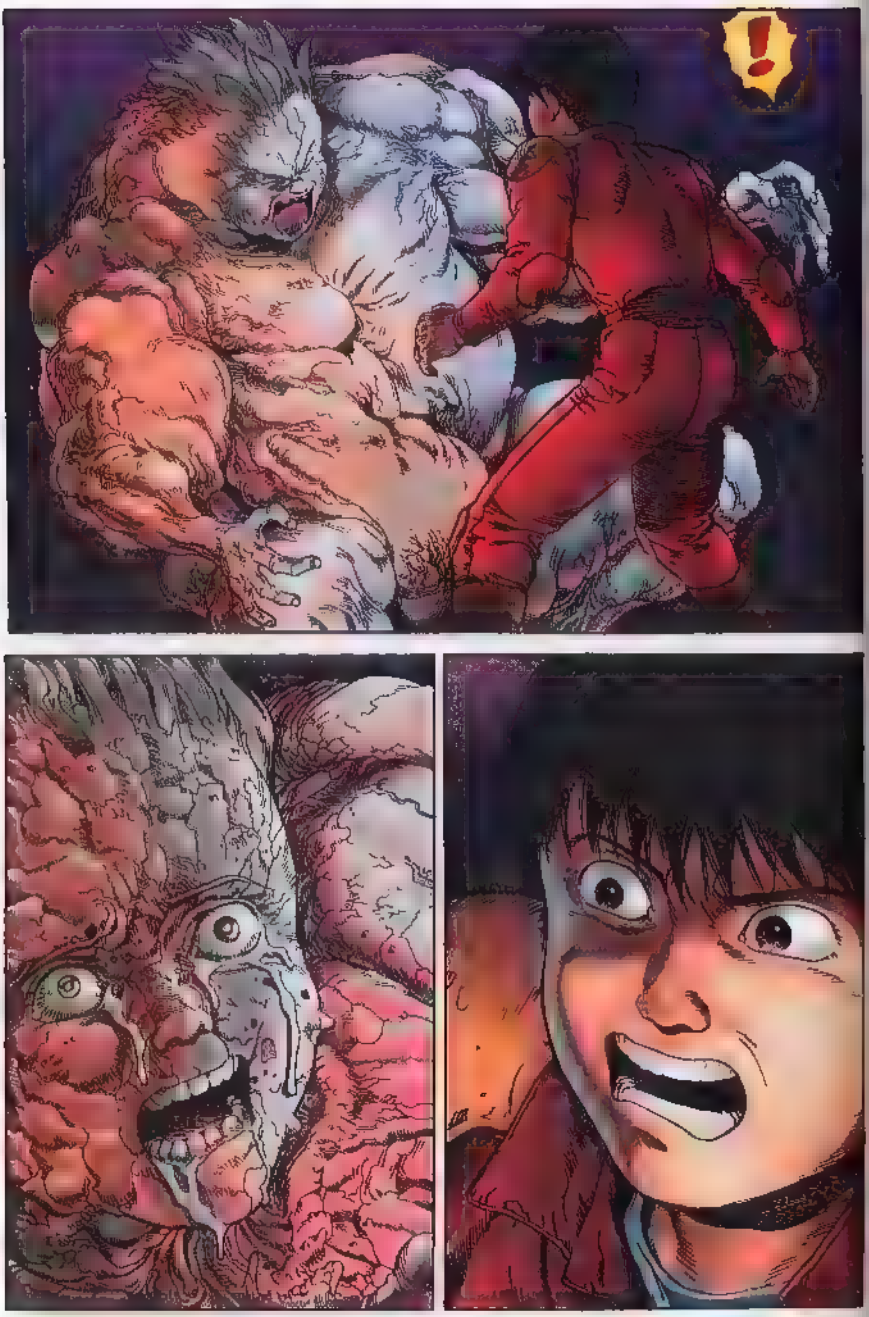
BUDDA
BUDD
THOP
THOP
THOP
...KA...
...HE...
...DAAA...
TAK TAK TAK

AAAHH...
!
...AHH...
...AIEEEE...
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HM.?
LOOKS LIKE HE'S DYIN'!


TETSUO
KA
...NE
TETSUO... YOU...
...Y-YOU... YOU--!

...PLEASE..
..HELP..
MOVE BACK!
LET ME FINISH 'IM!
..I'M..
..I'M..
..I'M..
KANEDA!
..DYYY
..INNNG.

AIEEEO!
!
HUNH?!
THE POWER!
IT RETURNS..
--IN AN IMMENSE, SURGING WAVE!



YAAUUGH!
SLUKK
BUDDABUDDABU
MONSTER--!
BLAM
THOP THOP THOP
YOW--!!

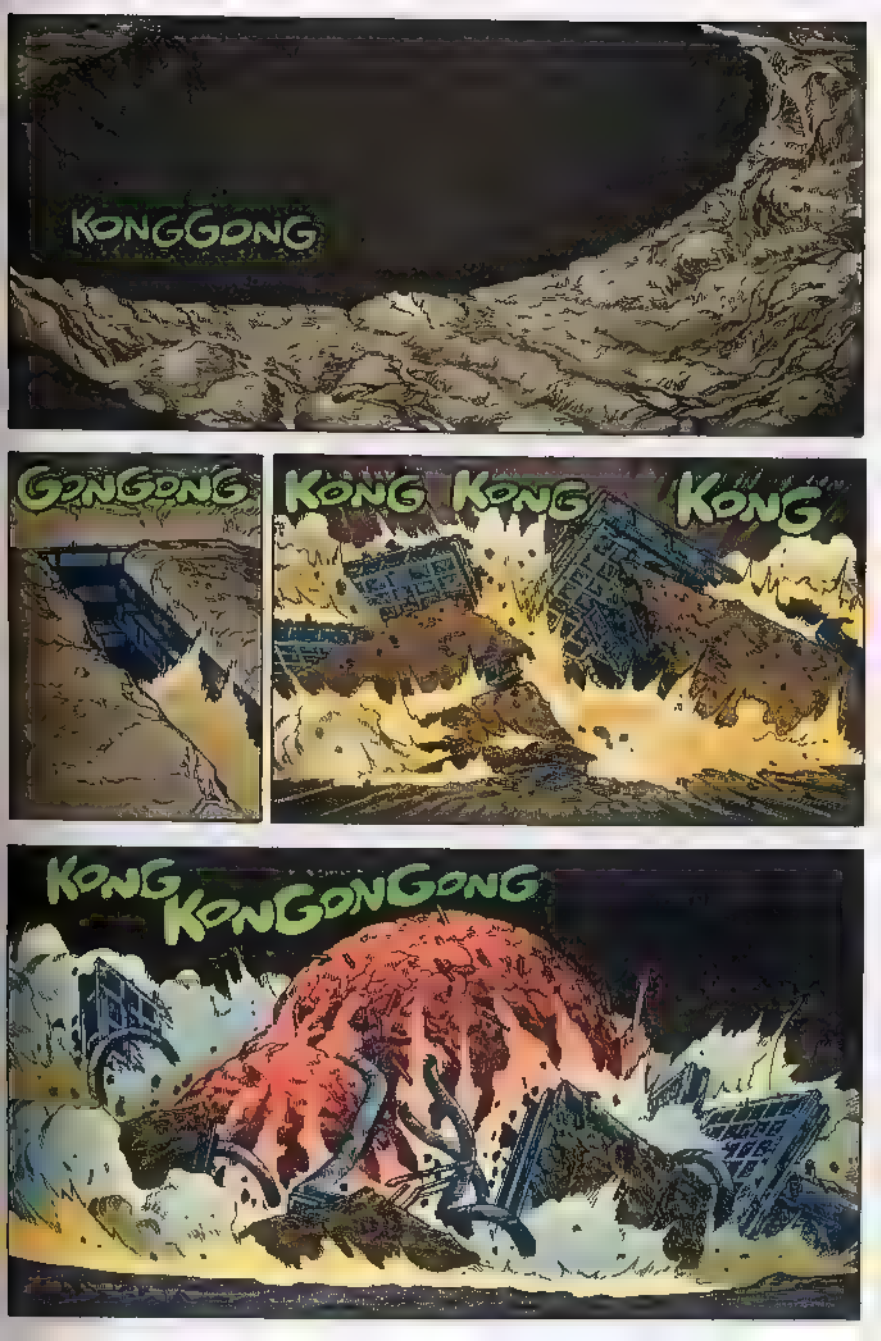
SHIT--!
KAY! WHERE ARE YOU?!
IT'S GOT KANEDA!
STOP IT, JOKER!
GONGONGS
YOU MUST FIND AKIRA!
TAKE HIM FARTHER AWAY!

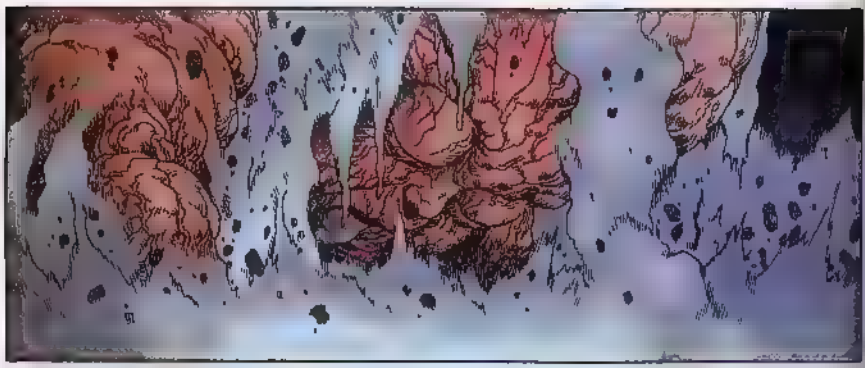
KRAAAK

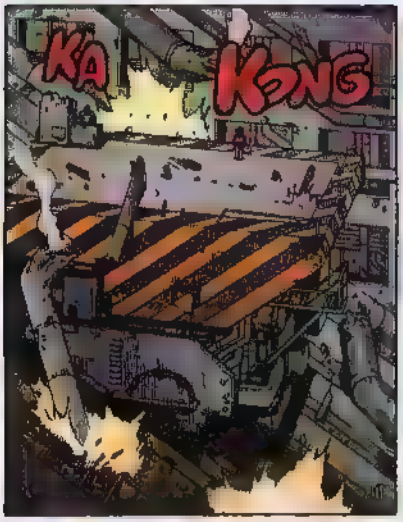
CLICK
GO GO GO
ONGONG
OKAY! IT'S WORKING!
GOONG
GONGONGONG
OOOOHHHHH...

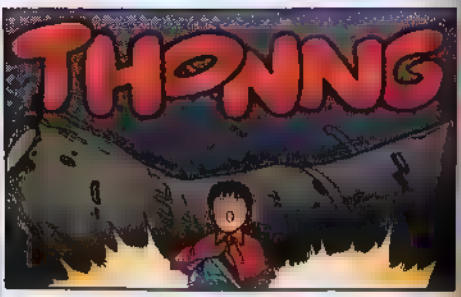
¡GASP!
KANEDAAA!
BUDDABUDDA
KAAY!
KAY!
CHIYOKO!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
UH-HUH...
SPOK
RRRM
AUGH..!
EEEK!

HURRY!
THE WHOLE FLOOR'S GOING! WE GOTTA RUN FOR THE ELEVATOR.
BUT... KANEDA...!
HE'S MONSTER CHOW! SUCKER SCARFED HIM RIGHT DOWN!
KONGONG
MOVE IT!

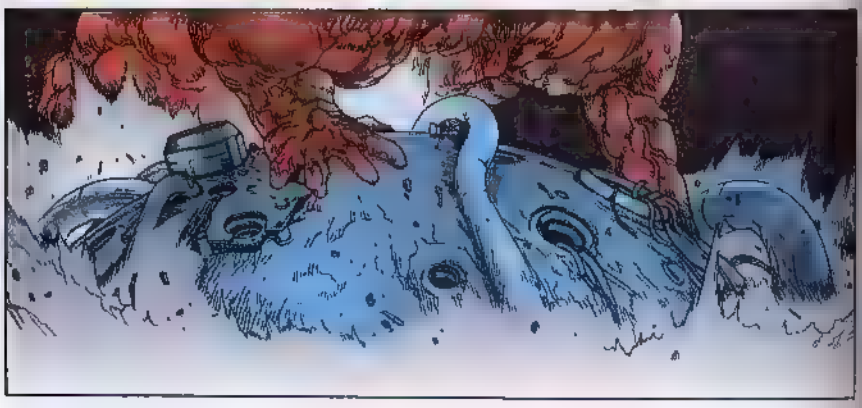

KONGGONG
GONGONG
KONG KONG KONG
KONG KONGONGONG




KA
KONG

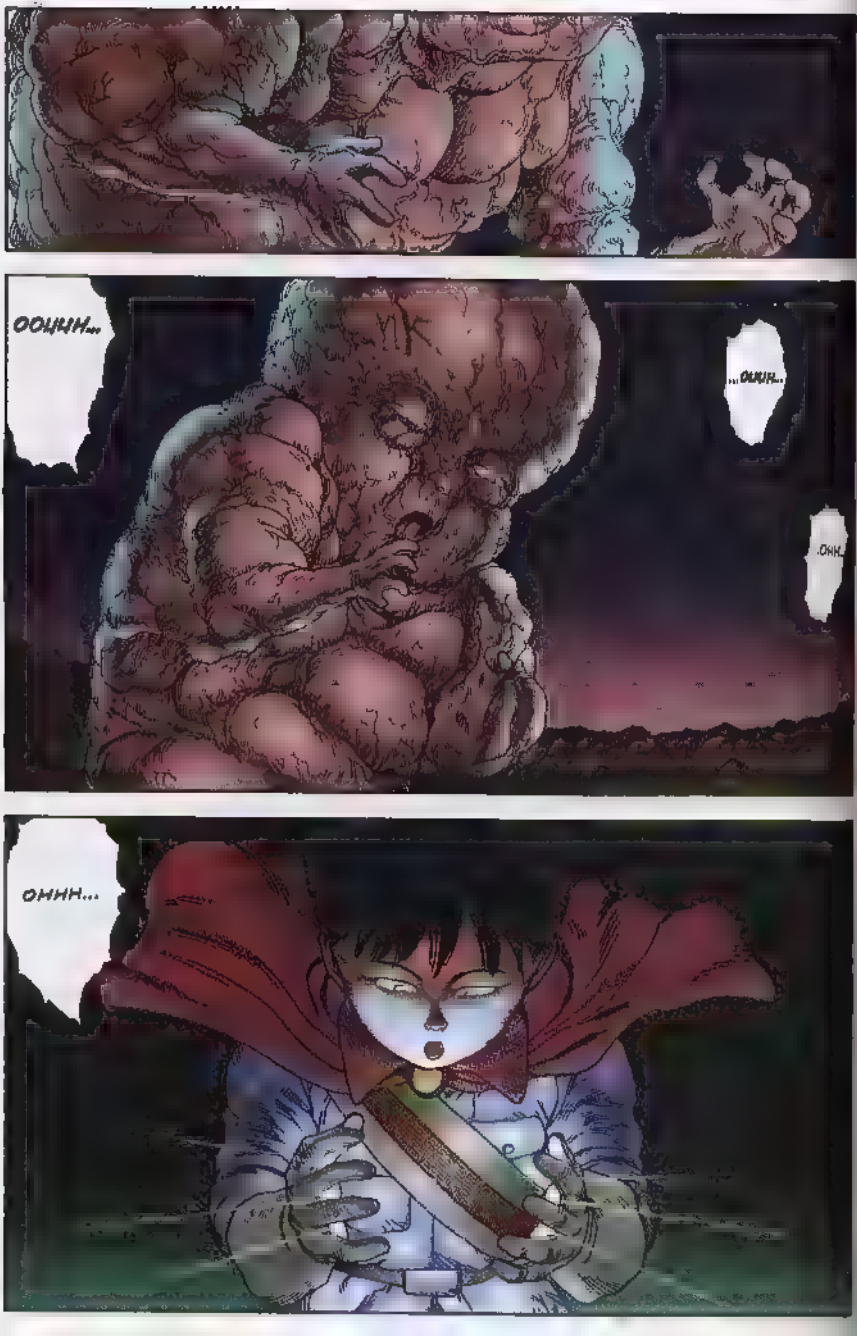

THONNG

DAMN -!



HRRRNN!
OOUHH...
OOH.. OOUHHH

IT'S AKIRA!
WE HAVEN'T YET FINISHED WITH TETSUO!
BEFORE WE'RE READY--!
THE POWERS OF BOTH RESONATE WITH POSITIVE ENERGY! COMBINED WITH THE POLARITY SQUARED--
THOSE FORCES WILL BE MORE THAN OUR WORLD CAN CONTAIN!
OOH...
OOHH...


OOUHH...
...OUHH...
...OHH...
OHHH...

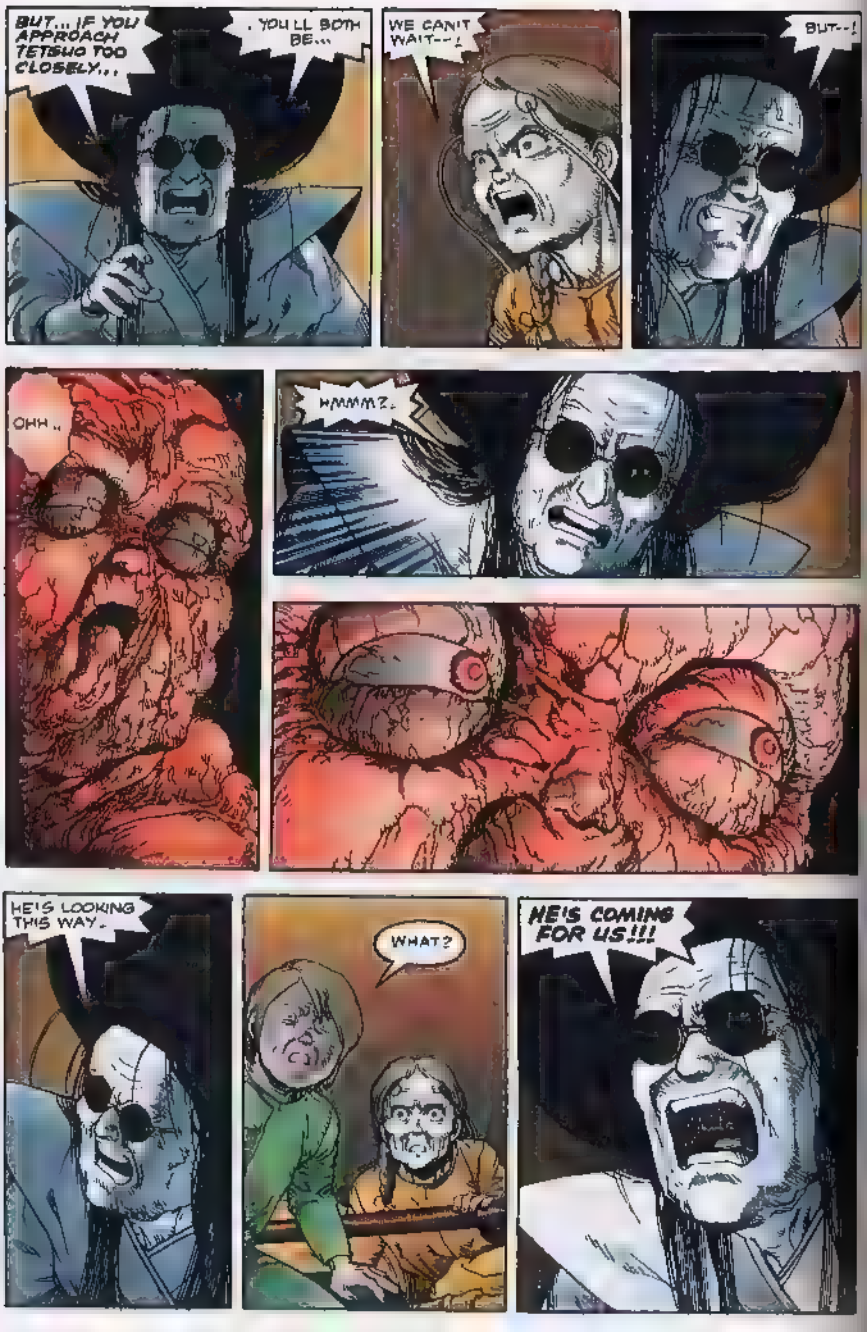
WHA--?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HUNH?
STOP IT!

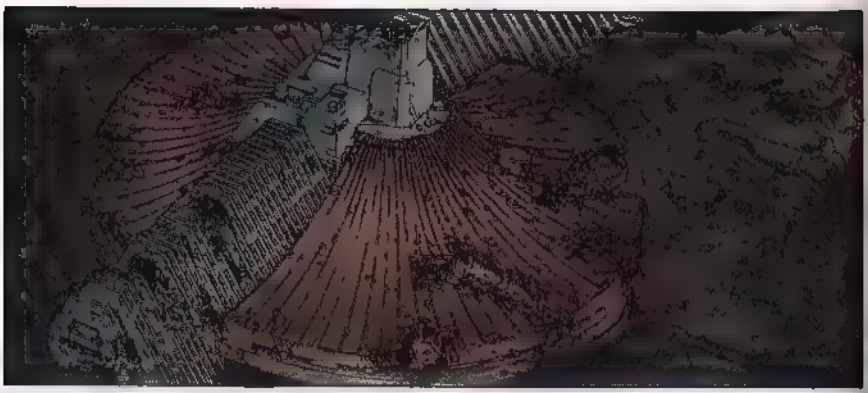
O, OH, OHH.
I'M WARNING YOU--!
OOHHHH.. OOUHHH..

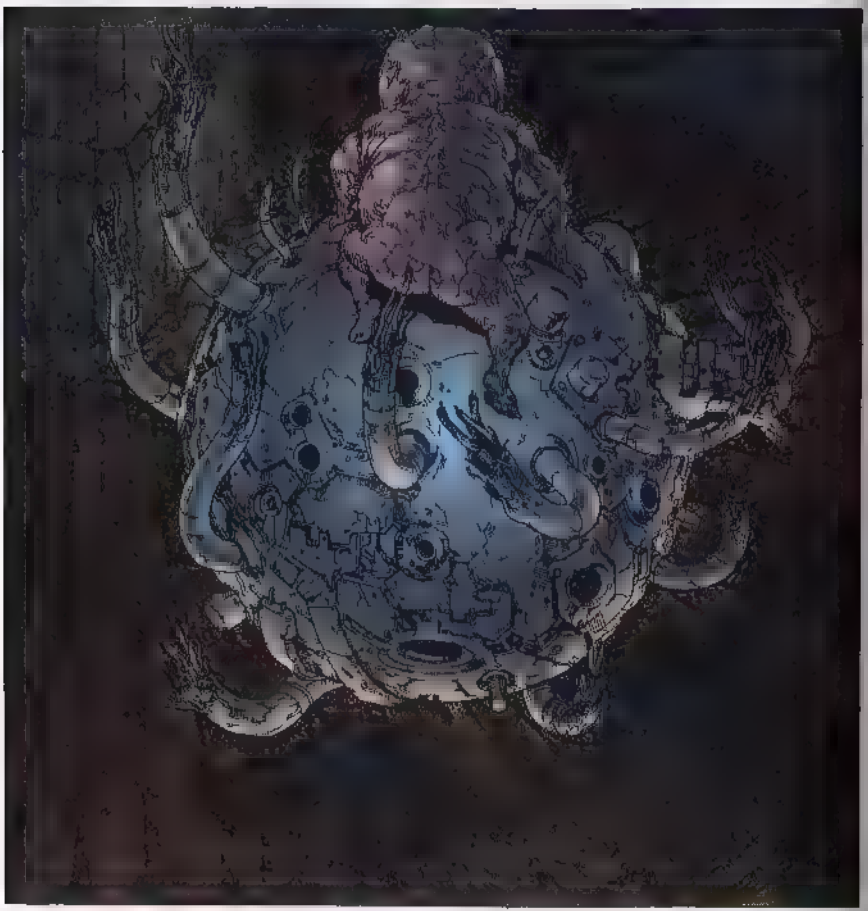
NNGH
SNOK
BLAM
!
STOP IT!

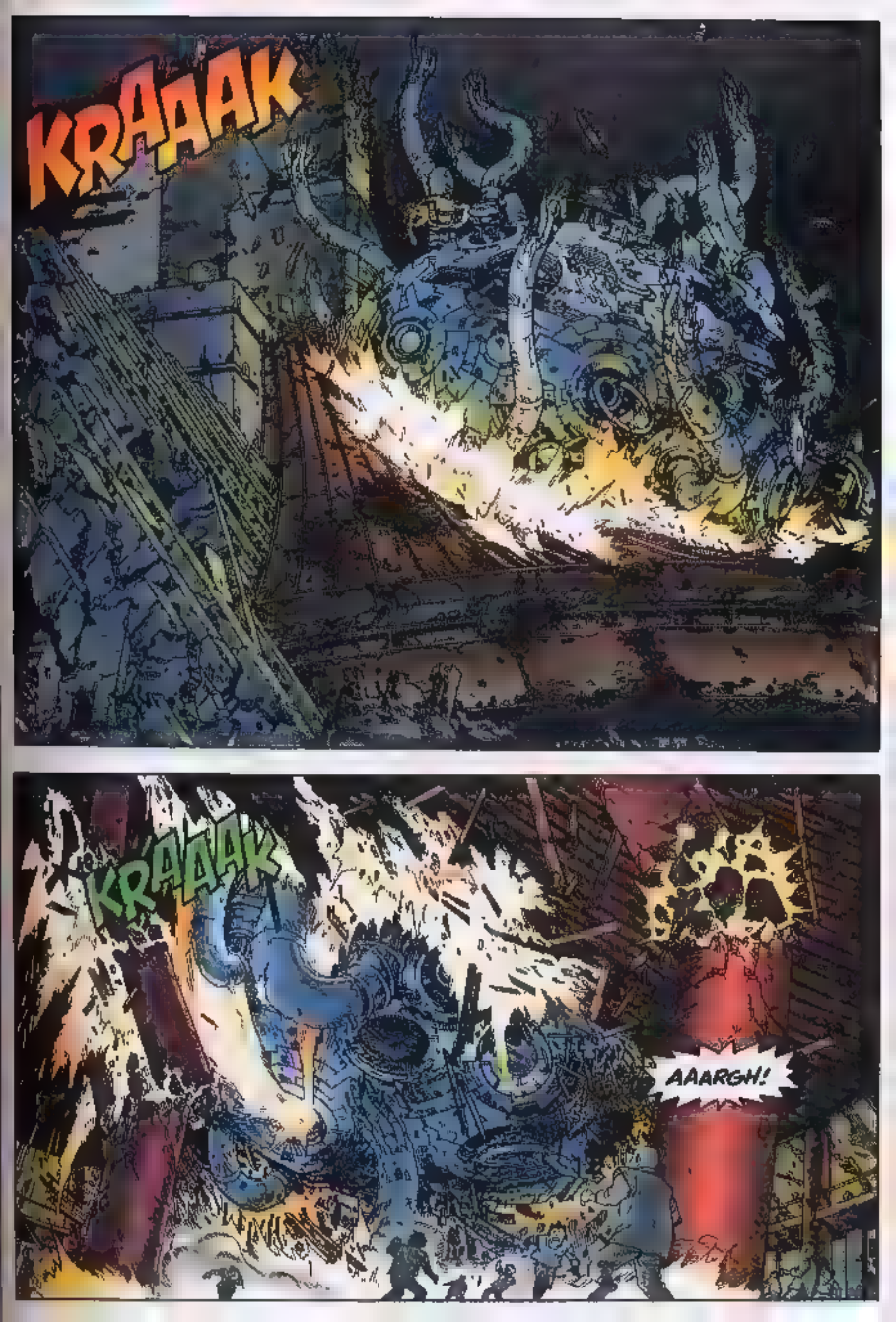
KRRAK
AAAAHHH--!
RRUMBLE
KRASH

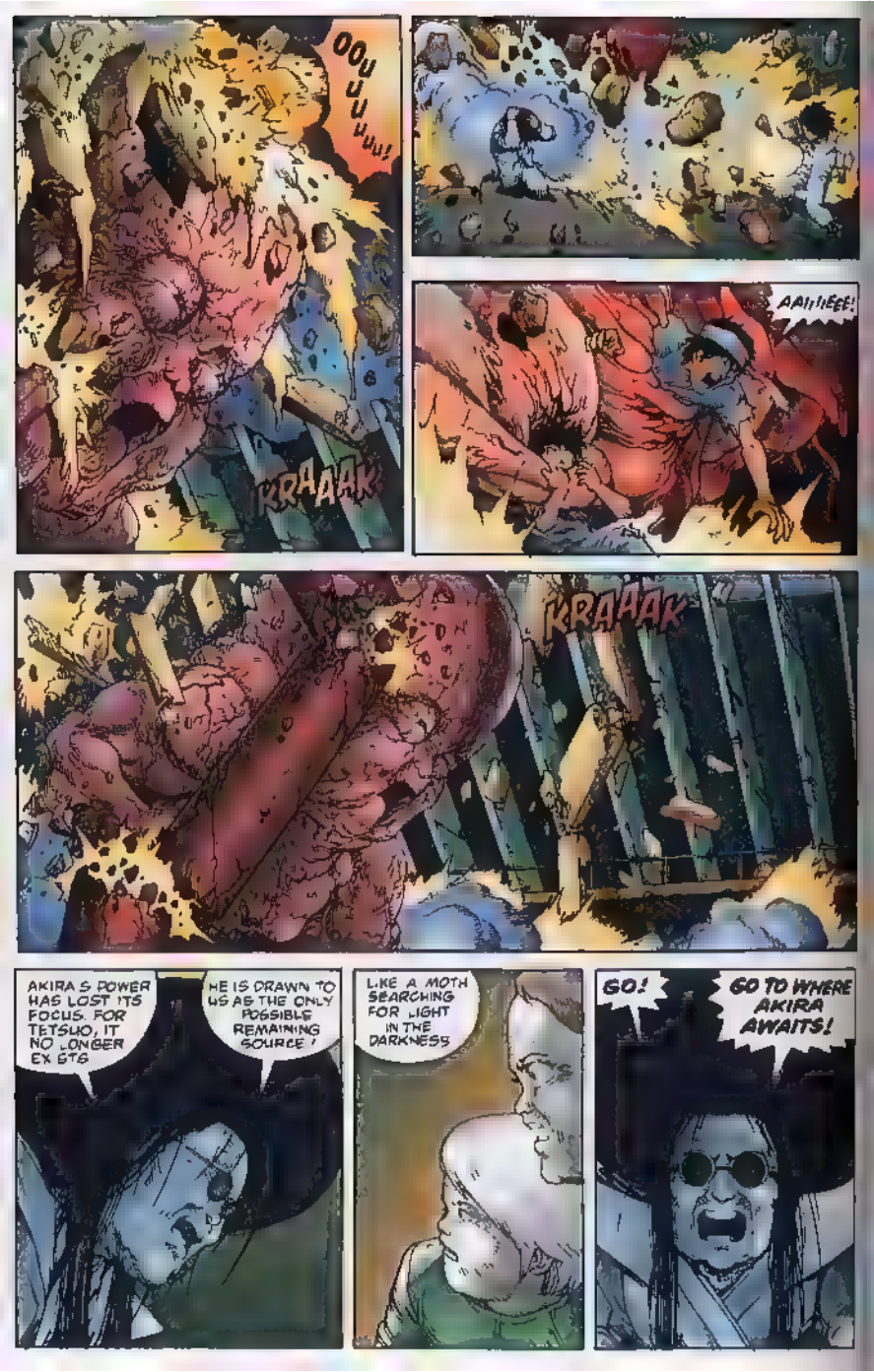
KEEEEN
AAAKIRA--!
WHAT... HAS HAPPENED...?
?
?
I'M GOING! HE NEEDS MY HELP!
MINE, TOO!


BUT... IF YOU APPROACH TETSUO TOO CLOSELY...
. YOU'LL BOTH BE...
WE CAN'T WAIT--!
BUT--!
OHH..
WMMM?.
HE'S LOOKING THIS WAY.
WHAT?
HE'S COMING FOR US!!!

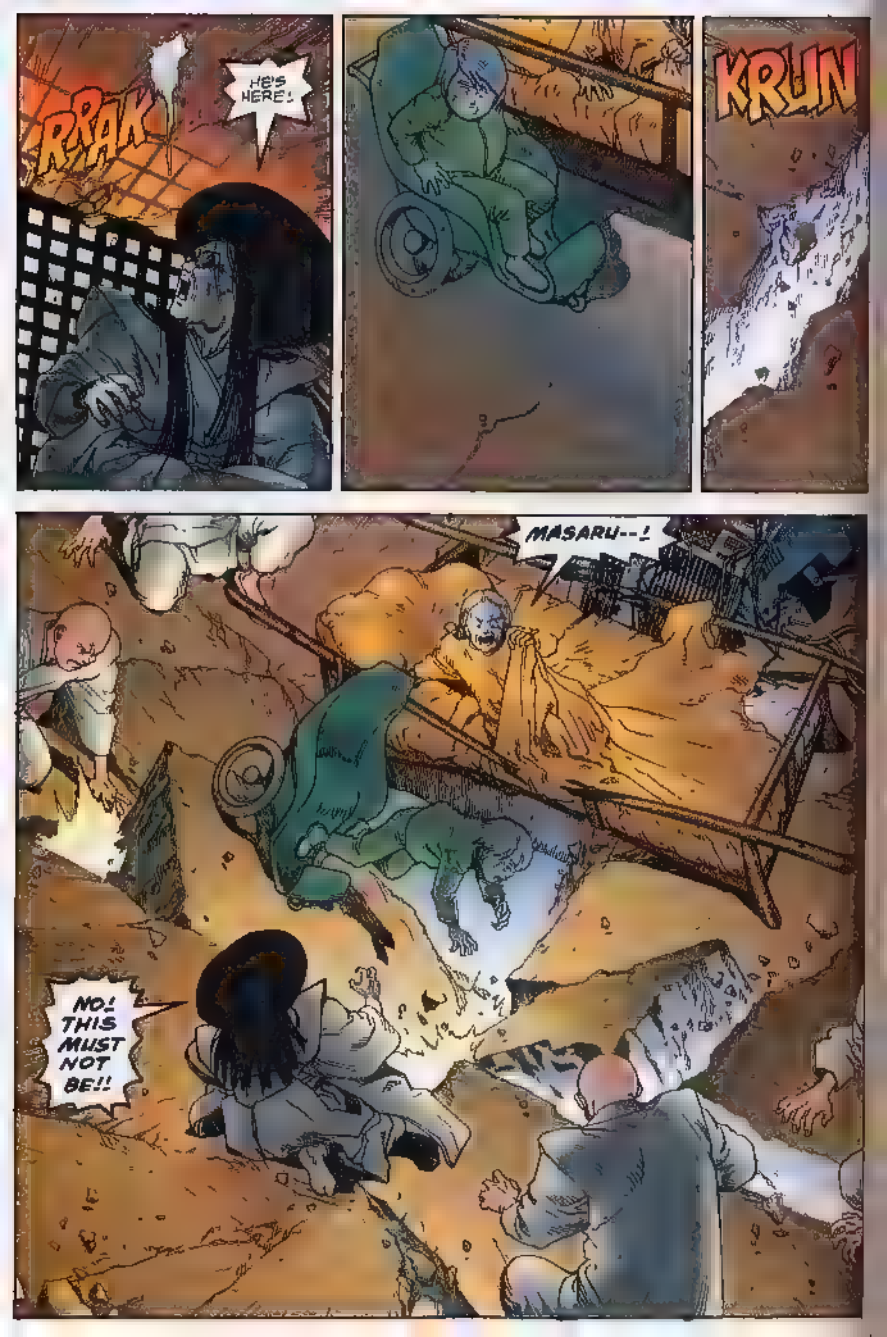





KRAAAK
KRAAAK
AAARGH!


OOuuuuuu!
KRAAAK
AAiiiEEE!
KRAAAK
AKIRA'S POWER HAS LOST ITS FOCUS. FOR TETSUO, IT NO LONGER EXISTS
HE IS DRAWN TO US AS THE ONLY POSSIBLE REMAINING SOURCE!
LIKE A MOTH SEARCHING FOR LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS
GO!
GO TO WHERE AKIRA AWAITS!

BUT..WHAT ABOUT YOU, NUMBER 19?
THE REST OF US WILL STAY AND DEAL WITH TETSUO... WE'LL FINISH HIM...
BUT WHATEVER HAPPENS..
...YOU MUST FREE AKIRA'S POWER...
...EVEN IF WE FAIL...YOU MUST SUCCEED!
RRRMMM...
OOOUUUUUH...


RRAK
HE'S HERE!
KRUN
MASARU--!
NO! THIS MUST NOT BE!!

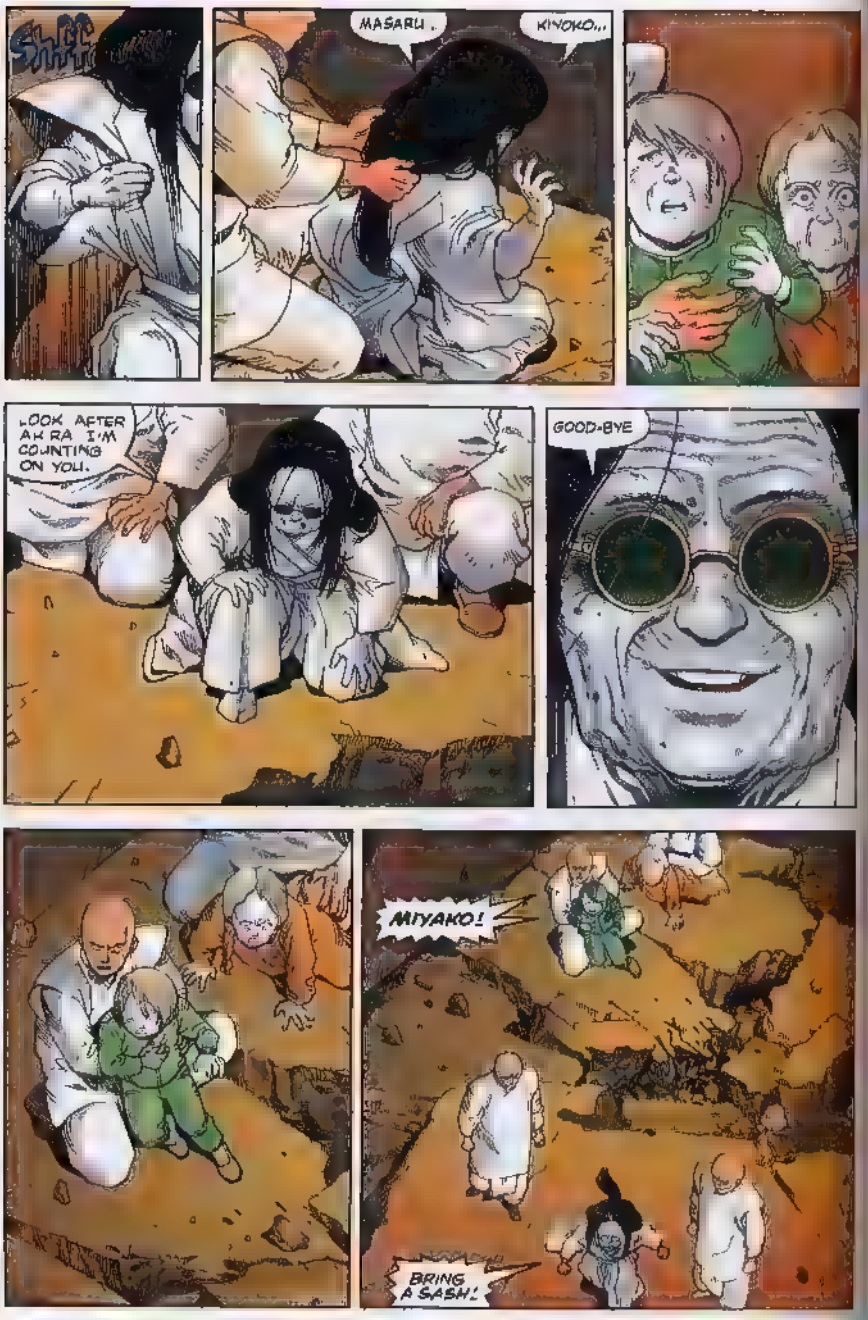
SSHHM
;R-RAR-RR ..;
NUMBER 27--!
GAAAAH!
..OW..
MASARU--!
IT'S ALL RIGHT!
HE WAS ONLY STUNNED!

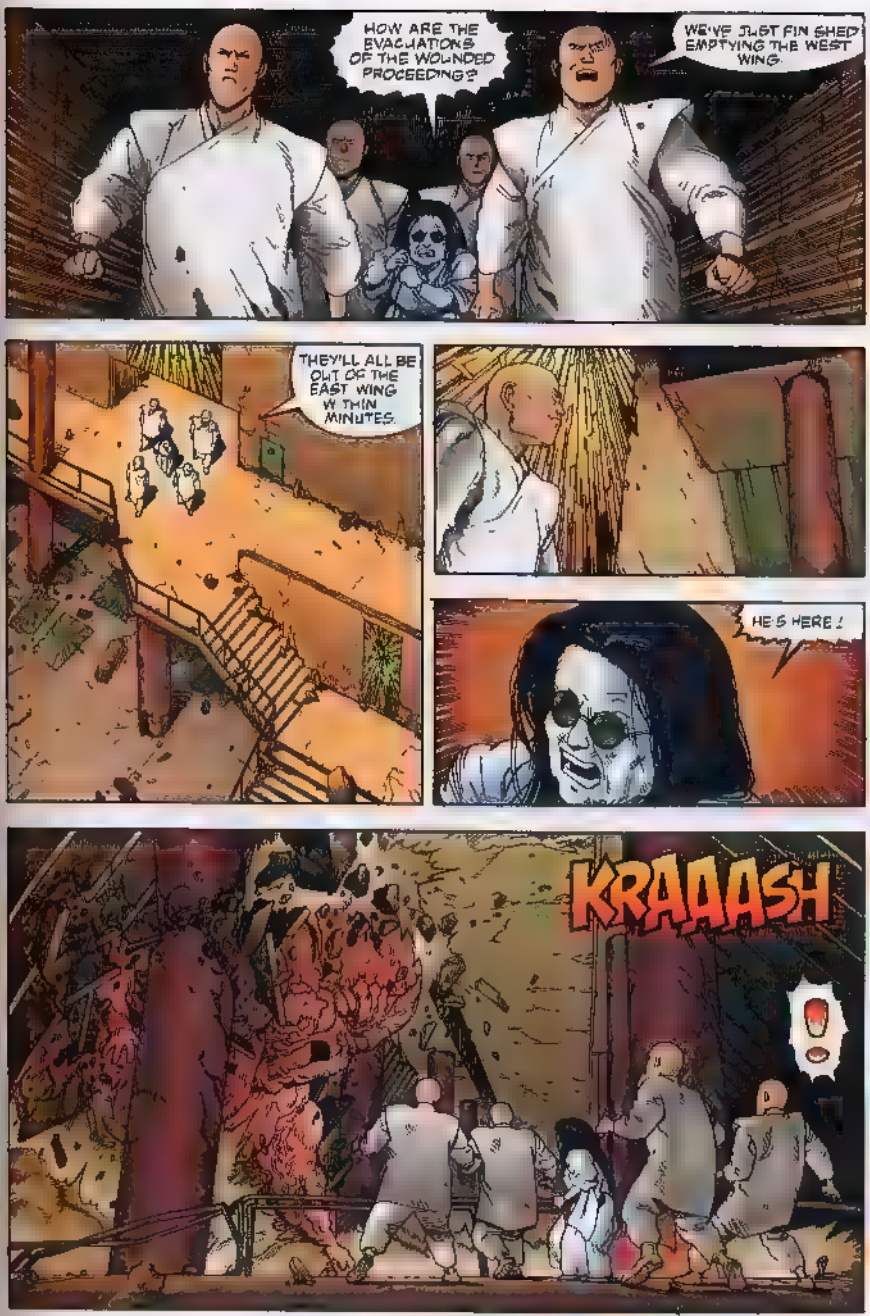
GONGONGG
WHERE ARE YOU, KAY?
KONGONNG
GONGONGG
YIPE!
LOOK! A LADDER!
T S BAD ENOUGH WE HAVE TO WALK UP...
. WITHOUT ALL TH S CRAP FALLIN DOWN ON US!

IT LOOKS LIKE THE EXIT IS A LONG WAY OFF
IT'S GOTTA BEAT STAY N DOWN HERE
SOMEWHERE DOWN THERE IS A JUNCTURE THAT LEADS INTO THE NEO-TOKYO MUNICIPAL SEWERS

THEN WE BETTER GET MOVING
I'DA CUT MY FEET TO RIBBONS CLIMBIN' UP THEM STAIRS.
SOONER OR LATER WE'LL HAVE TO CLIMB
WUH...?
WHAT S T? KAY--I!
I HAVE TO GO

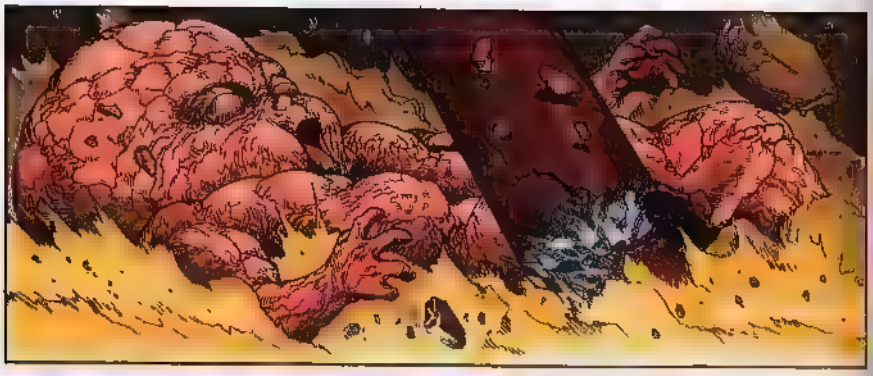
GO...?
WHERE?!?
THERE'S STILL TETSUO..
HMMM
KAY!!
WAIT--!
rattle
rattle
AHH--!
Suff


MASARU.
KIYOKO...
LOOK AFTER AKIRA I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
GOOD-BYE
MIYAKO!
BRING A SASH!


HOW ARE THE EVACUATIONS OF THE WOUNDED PROCEEDING?
WE'VE JUST FIN SHED EMPTYING THE WEST WING.
THEY'LL ALL BE OUT OF THE EAST WING W THIN MINUTES.
HE'S HERE!
KRAAASH

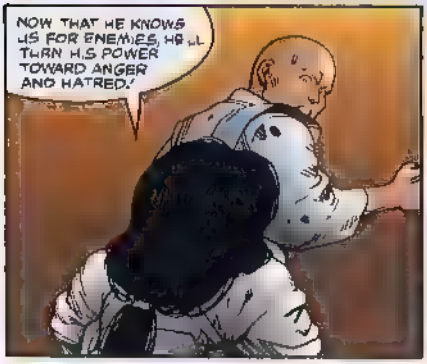
LET US MUSTER OUR POWERS TOGETHER AND STRIKE AS ONE!
OOOOUUUU...

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
HAAAAH!
DODOMM



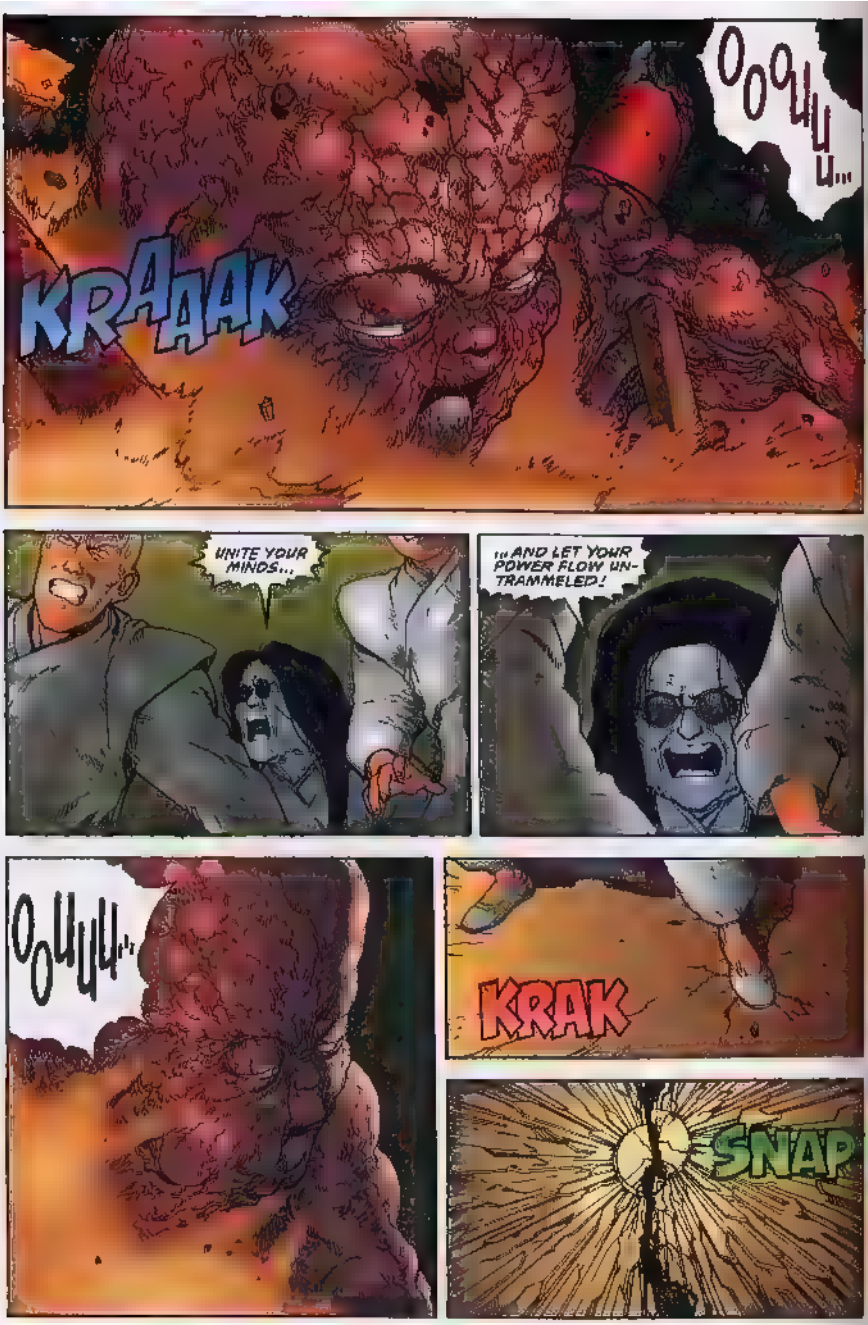
KRASH

HE CAME HERE EXPECTING TO FIND AID... BUT AFTER A DOSE OF REALITY SUCH AS WE'VE JUST SLAPPED HIM WITH, HE'S BOUND TO GROW ANGRY


NOW THAT HE KNOWS US FOR ENEMIES, HE'LL TURN HIS POWER TOWARD ANGER AND HATRED!

HIS ANGER IS WHAT WE MUST CONTROL! LET HIM FEED HIS POWER, AND WE CAN CHANNEL IT FOR GOOD

MASARU..
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M FINE
THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME
I KNOW.
!
GASP!


KRAAAK
OOOUUU...
UNITE YOUR MINDS...
...AND LET YOUR POWER FLOW UN-TRAMMELED!
OOUUU...
KRAK
SNAP

DUM DUM DUM DUM
DUM
DUM DUM
OH--!
BAM
AAUGH--!
BAM
HOLD YOUR FOCUS!

!
SHUK
YAK
LOOK!
?!
NOW, STRIKE AT HIS LEFT SHOULDER!
HA!!

!
THUD
WAIT--!
KANEDA'S INSIDE OF HIM!
GLUK
NOW THE CHEST--!

!
ZZUK
FLUBB

IT COMES AGAIN!
!
GWARGH

BOOOM
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE SHRINE?!
LADY MIYAKO--!
KRASH
AAIEEE!
WE MUST HOLD OUT TILL IT'S DONE!

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editor in chief

Power is the name of the game of Neo-Tokyo, and God help any lost soul who gets in the way of the forces ravaging the future city. The mad Tetsuo turns on old friends, overwhelming with his raging energies and inhuman flesh. Backed into a corner, Lady Miyako must re-direct the psychic might of her followers from precious healing to desperate destruction. But it may finally be a military leader without a command who wins out this dark day, if the battered Colonel can find the strength to target a child Emperor named Akira...

...and do so simple a thing as pull a trigger.

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

AKIRA

DIRECT EDITION
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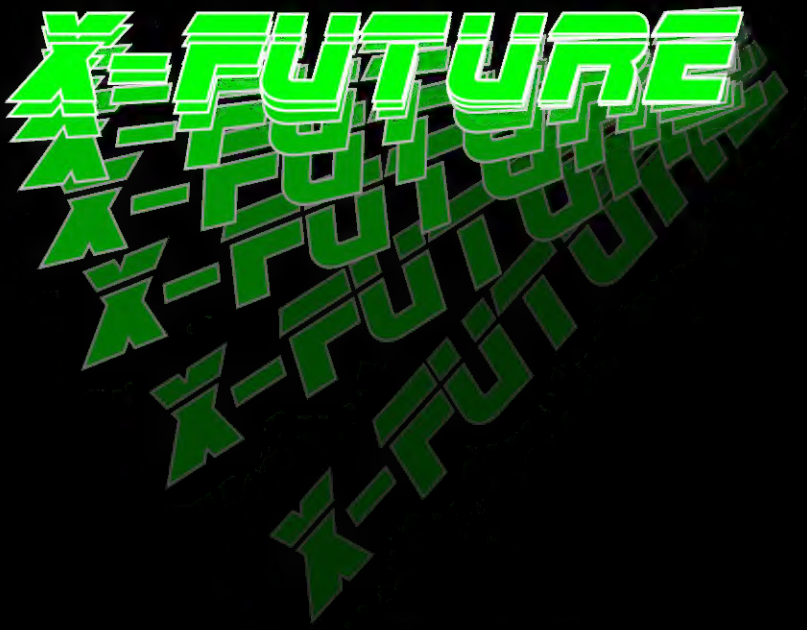

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